ment Conference, which after several postponements was due to open at Geneva on February 2, 1932. Various preparatory activities organised by non-official bodies were intended to promote its success. A disarmament petition obtained over two million signatures, and was ceremonially loaded on a lorry to be dispatched to Geneva while a band played appropriate music; and a great peace rally was held in the Albert Hall, and addressed by political and other leaders. The Conference was attended by representatives and military experts from sixty-four countries, as well as by an American observer, and was frequently described as the greatest conference the world had so far seen. A special building provided with a rubber floor, and costing 1,000,000 Swiss francs, had been erected by the Swiss Government to house it; Geneva hoteliers had made ample provision for accommodating delegates and their staffs, journalists, petitioners, representatives of armament manufacturers with a watching-brief and funds at their disposal to be used if required, all who were interested, financially, professionally or emotionally, in the Conference's proceedings; and each official delegate was presented with a gold medal struck by the League in honour of the occasion.

The President, Henderson, looked down sadly on the imposing assembly which awaited his presidential address. He came fresh from an unprecedented electoral defeat; the party he had been largely instrumental in building up, was in ruins; where he had expected to see a friendly, or at any rate familiar countenance, he saw the forbidding features of Sir John Simon. Hope in such circumstances was not easily summoned up. His

occupancy of the centre of the world's stage to which he had been looking forward, had somehow lost its glamour, and his words when he began to speak, though they were ostensibly sanguine, fell coldly from his lips. He might have been addressing a brotherhood meeting in Coventry on the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

Altogether twenty-seven disarmament plans were laid before the Conference, M. Tardieu, who cleverly got in first by producing bis plan at what was intended to be a preparatory session, suggested the creation of a super-national armed force capable